AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-25 (cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the thrombogenic character of an exchanger for treating blood or plasma by extracorporeal circulation, comprising two compartments separated by a semipermeable membrane having a surface oriented towards a first compartment intended for the circulation of blood or plasma, the method comprising:

(a) preparing a semipermeable membrane, in the form of a flat membrane or a bundle of hollow fibres, from a solution of polyacrylonitrile carrying anionic or anionizable groups;

(b) assembling the various components of the exchanger, in particular fitting the semipermeable membrane or a bundle of hollow fibres in a case;

(c) preparing a solution containing at least one cationic polymer carrying cationic groups that form ionic bonds with the anionic or anionizable groups of the polyacrylonitrile, the cationic polymer further comprising only polymer chains whose size is sufficient for the chains not to pass through the semipermeable membrane, and bringing this solution into contact with the surface of the semipermeable membrane intended to be placed in contact with the blood or plasma, stage (c) being carried out before or after stage (b);

(d) in the event that stage (c) is carried out after stage (b), purging the exchanger of the solution containing the cationic polymer;

(e) preparing a solution containing, in the dissolved state, at least one anticoagulant agent carrying anionic groups that form ionic bonds with the cationic groups of said cationic polymer, and bringing this solution into contact with the surface of the semipermeable membrane intended to be placed in contact with the blood, stage (e) being implemented after stage (c) but before or after stage (b);

(f) in the event that stage (e) is carried out after stage (b), purging the exchanger of the solution containing the anticoagulant agent; and

(g) sterilizing the exchanger ~~when~~ once the semipermeable membrane based on polyacrylonitrile carrying anionic or anionizable groups is coated with the cationic polymer and the anticoagulant agent.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~15 or~~ 26, wherein said cationic polymer is polyethyleneimine, the amount of which brought into contact with the semipermeable membrane being between approximately 1 mg and approximately 30 mg per m^2 of membrane (including end points).

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~15 or~~ 26, wherein the cationic polymer is prepared by ultrafiltration using a separate semipermeable membrane which is identical to the semipermeable membrane or which has a cut-off threshold equal to or greater than that of the semipermeable membrane, in order to preclude said chains of the cationic polymer from passing through the semipermeable membrane.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~15 or~~ 26, wherein said anticoagulant agent consists essentially of heparin, the amount of which brought into

contact with the semipermeable membrane being between approximately 200 IU and approximately 20,000 IU per m^2 of membrane (including end points).

30. (New) A method according to one of claims 26-29, wherein said step of sterilizing the exchanger further includes sterilizing the semipermeable membrane with gamma irradiation or with ethylene oxide.